

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 00278 101425Z
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 ISO-00 /016 W
-----101504Z 124932 /44
R 101212Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0977

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FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP, FI
SUBJECT: INVITATION TO VISIT HELSINKI

1. RECENTLY WHILE ON WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT WITH SECRETARY HARTMAN. DURING THE CONVERSATION YOUR MOST IMPORTANT VISIT TO MOSCOW WAS DISCUSSED.

2. I STRONGLY FEEL THE POSSIBILITY OF YOUR OVERNIGHTING IN HELSINKI WOULD BE NOT ONLY GOOD FOR YOU PHYSICALLY BUT WOULD BE MOST MEANINGFUL TO THESE RUGGED PEOPLE WITH WHOM I HAVE ENJOYED WORKING FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS. THIS YEAR IS THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THOSE MEMORABLE YEARS WHEN THE FINNS CAPTURED THE WORLD'S IMAGINATION IN THEIR BATTLE FOR FREEDOM. AS YOU PERHAPS KNOW, THEY RECENTLY FINISHED PAYING THEIR DEBT TO THE UNITED STATES. THE LAST \$3 MILLION AT FINNISH INITIATIVE WAS PUT INTO A TRUST FUND TO BE USED BY FINN-AMERICAN SCHOLARS IN PERPETUITY.

3. AS YOU KNOW, THE VERY FIRST SALT TALKS WERE HELD IN THIS EMBASSY NOV 18, 1969. FOR YOU TO STAY AT THE EMBASSY WHERE SALT BEGAN COULD BE HIGHLY SYMBOLIC AT THE BEGINNING OF YOUR OWN INVOLVEMENT IN THOSE
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MOST IMPORTANT NEGOTIATIONS.

4. BY STOPPING HERE ON YOUR FIRST IMPORTANT MISSION YOU WOULD GIVE UNBELIEVABLE STATURE TO THE FINNS WHO ARE OUR GOOD FRIENDS AND WHO WOULD GET OBVIOUS STRENGTH FROM THE TRIBUTE YOU WOULD PAY THEM BY STOPPING EN ROUTE TO MOSCOW. THE EMBASSY IS LARGE

AND VERY QUIET. I WILL PUT OUR KITCHEN CAPABILITIES
AGAINST ANY IN THE WORLD. IT WOULD GIVE ME GREAT
PLEASURE AND HONOR TO WELCOME YOU.
AUSTAD

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Message Attributes

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